

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CAPE T 01180 01 OF 02 141600Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----054353 141607Z /41

O R 141345Z JUN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7457  
INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 CAPE TOWN 1180

EXDIS - FOR AF AND S/AS FROM AMBASSADOR

DEPARTMENT PASS OTHER POSTS AS DESIRED

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3  
TAGS: MNUC, PARM, SF  
SUBJECT: US-SOUTH AFRICAN NUCLEAR TALKS

REF: (A) STATE 144585, (B) CAPE TOWN 1165,

1. BRAND FOURIE SAID YESTERDAY (JUNE 13) THAT HE AND  
AMPIE ROUX HAVE SET ASIDE MOST OF THE WEEK OF JUNE 26  
IN ORDER TO HAVE AS MUCH TIME AS NECESSARY FOR TALKS  
WITH AMB. GERARD SMITH AND PARTY. ON ASSUMPTION THERE  
WILL BE TIME FOR EMBASSY-SMITH CONSULTATIONS ON  
SUNDAY, JUNE 25, WE HAVE AGREED TO BEGIN TALKS WITH  
SAG IN FOURIE'S OFFICE IN THE UNION BUILDINGS, PRETORIA,  
AT 10 A.M., MONDAY. FOURIE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE  
PREFERABLE TO HAVE A SMALL GROUP FOR THE FIRST SESSION  
AND SAID THE SAG SIDE WOULD PROBABLY BE LIMITED TO HIMSELF  
AND DR. ROUX WITH A NOTE-TAKER FOR EACH. HE SAID HE  
WOULD LIKE TO GIVE A LUNCH FOR ABOUT FOURTEEN AT  
1 P.M., MONDAY (TO INCLUDE SMITH, EDMONDSON AND  
THE REST OF THE US DELEGATION) FOLLOWED BY A MEETING  
WITH THE FULL GROUP, POSSIBLY INCLUDING SAG TECHNICAL  
EXPERTS, IN THE AFTERNOON. HE SAW NO PROBLEM WITH

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THE PROPOSED SIZE OF OUR OVERALL DELEGATION. WHILE  
THE NUMBER PROPOSED IN REF A MAY MAKE IT HARDER TO  
ESCAPE PUBLIC NOTICE, WE CAN PRESUMABLY HANDLE THIS  
BY SOME PRESS GUIDANCE ON THE FACT OF THE TALKS AND  
FIRM "NO COMMENTS" ON THE SUBSTANCE.

2. IT SEEMED CLEAR FOURIE WOULD PREFER FIRST MEETING

TO BE A GENERAL TOUR D'HORIZON OF ALL THE AGENDA POINTS, FOLLOWED BY MORE DETAILED DISCUSSION TOPIC BY TOPIC. HE THOUGHT IT BEST NOT TO SET A SPECIFIC TIMETABLE OF MEETINGS IN ADVANCE BUT TO AGREE ON BREAKS, ADJOURNMENTS AND RESUMPTIONS AS WE GO ALONG, BEARING IN MIND THAT BOTH SIDES MIGHT REQUIRE SOME TIME FOR CONSULTATION WITH PRINCIPALS ON CERTAIN POINTS. HE SAID MOST OF THE MEETINGS WOULD TAKE PLACE IN HIS OFFICE BUT THOUGHT DR. ROUX WOULD WANT TO INVITE THE GROUP TO LUNCH AT THE AEB HEADQUARTERS AT PALINDABA.

3. WHEN ASKED ABOUT AGENDA SUBJECTS, FOURIE ENGAGED IN SOME "THINKING ALOUD" WHICH PRODUCED A LIST OF ISSUES VERY SIMILAR TO POINTS HE HAD RAISED WITH JACOMET (REF B AND PREVIOUS) AS FOLLOWS:

- A. HEU FOR SAFARI
- B. LEU FOR KOEBERG
- C. IAEA CONCERNS
- D. THE PROBLEM OF SAFEGUARDS FOR VALINDABA
- E. TECHNOLOGY AND EQUIPMENT
- F. THE GENERAL APPROACH
- G. NPT ADHERENCE.

THE LAST ITEM RESULTED FROM MY OWN QUESTION ABOUT SOUTH AFRICA'S ADHERENCE, TO WHICH FOURIE RESPONDED  
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THAT OF COURSE THIS WAS ASSUMED TO BE A QUESTION THAT AFFECTED THE WHOLE DISCUSSION. ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT MENTION THE ISSUE OF SPENT FUEL, THIS WAS PROBABLY AN OVERSIGHT AND THE US SIDE SHOULD BE PREPARED TO DEAL WITH THE SUBJECT.

4. I SUSPECT THAT WE WOULD HAVE DIFFICULTY PINNING THE SOUTH AFRICANS DOWN TO A MORE EXPLICIT PROGRAMMING OF THE DISCUSSIONS, BUT AM WILLING TO PUT MORE SPECIFIC REQUESTS TO FOURIE IF AMBASSADOR SMITH WISHES. WHEN ASKED TO WHAT EXTENT THE MINISTER (BOTH) WOULD BECOME INVOLVED IN THE TALKS, FOURIE SAID THE MINISTER WOULD NOT TAKE PART IN THE TALKS BUT THAT WE MIGHT MUTUALLY CONSIDER TOWARD THE END OF THE TALKS WHETHER IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO GET HIM INVOLVED AT THAT TIME. WHILE THIS MEANS THAT FOURIE AND ROUX MAY HAVE TO SEEK MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE ON CERTAIN POINTS THAT COULD COME UP IN THE TALKS, THERE IS PROBABLY CONSIDERABLE ADVANTAGE IN KEEPING THE TALKS MORE "NUCLEAR" AND LESS POLITICAL THIS WAY.

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----054375 141608Z /41

O R 141345Z JUN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7458  
INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 CAPE TOWN 1180

EXDIS - FOR AF AND S/AS FROM AMBASSADOR

DEPARTMENT PASS OTHER POSTS AS DESIRED

5. SUGGESTIONS ON OUR GENERAL APPROACH: RATHER THAN MOVING FROM THE PARTICULAR TO THE GENERAL, AS WAS FOURIE'S TENDENCY IN HIS TALK WITH JACOMET AND HIS LISTING OF ISSUES, IT MIGHT BE ADVANTAGEOUS FOR US TO TURN THE ORDER AROUND, BEGINNING WITH A MORE LOGICAL PRESENTATION OF HOW WE SEE THE OVERALL SITUATION AND HOW WE FEEL WE CAN WORK SATISFACTORILY TOGETHER TO MEET MOST OF THE BASIC CONCERNS ON BOTH SIDES. WE SHOULD EXPLAIN CERTAIN ASPECTS OF THE SITUATION THAT, FOR US, ARE FAIRLY UNIVERSAL CONCERNS (E.G., OUR NEW LEGISLATION, CONCERN ABOUT NONPROLIFERATION, ATTITUDE TOWARD ENRICHMENT, THE FUEL CYCLE, ETC.), AS WELL AS SOME CONCERNS THAT, VERY FRANKLY, ARE UNIQUE TO SOUTH AFRICA (E.G., AFRICAN AND UN CONCERN REGARDING SOUTH AFRICA'S INTENTIONS IN THE ABSENCE OF SAG ADHERENCE TO THE NPT AND THE DIFFICULTIES THIS ADDS TO OTHER PROBLEMS IN OUR OVERALL RELATIONS), THEN EXPLAIN HOW WE BELIEVE WE CAN MEET THESE CONCERNS IN SPECIFIC AREAS (E.G., CONVERTING SAFARI TO MEU/LEU AND INSTITUTING NPT ADHERENCE AND THE KIND OF SAFEGUARDS THAT WILL PERMIT THE ASSURED CONTINUATION OF MUTUALLY AGREED NUCLEAR RELATIONS). THE IDEA WOULD BE TO  
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LEAD IN FROM THIS GENERAL PRESENTATION TO MORE

DETAILED DISCUSSION OF THE SPECIFIC ISSUES AND  
CONCERNS THAT SOUTH AFRICA HAS RAISED. WHILE WE  
SHOULD OBVIOUSLY NOT GIVE AWAY ANY POINTS BEFOREHAND,  
WE SHOULD MAKE IT CLEAR THAT WE ARE THINKING IN  
TERMS OF AN OVERALL AGREEMENT FOR WHICH WE HOPE THE  
BASIC ELEMENTS ARE PRESENT.  
EDMONDSON

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## Message Attributes

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